

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: VANDEN HOEK ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN  
Serial No.: 10/790,938 Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN  
Filed: MARCH 1, 2004 Docket: 11998.56US01  
Due Date: JUNE 1, 2004  
Title: SEAM CLOSURE DEVICE AND METHODS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 28, 2004.

By: *Teresa Morgan*

Name: *Teresa Morgan*

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**34379**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement and Form 1449
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By: *Anna M. Nelson*

Name: Anna M. Nelson

Reg. No.: 48,935

ANelson:PLStdM



S/N 10/790,938

PATENT

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By:

Name:

*Teresa Morgan*  
Teresa Morgan

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

Because this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicant(s) do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked

as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

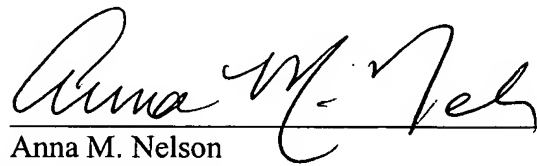
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P. O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

Date

May 28, 2004

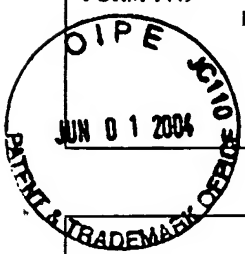


Anna M. Nelson  
Reg. No. 48,935  
AMN:PLStdM

**34379**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

<b>FORM 1449*</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 11998.56US01	Application Number: 10/790,938
	Applicant: VANDEN HOEK ET AL.	
	Filing Date: 03/01/2004	Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN



## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,702,343	12/30/1997	Alferness			
	6,085,754	07/11/2000	Alferness et al.			
	6,123,662	09/26/2000	Alferness et al.			
	6,155,972	12/05/2000	Nauertz et al.			
	6,169,922 B1	01/02/2001	Alferness et al.			
	6,193,648 B1	02/27/2001	Krueger			
	6,230,714 B1	05/15/2001	Alferness et al.			
	6,241,654 B1	06/05/2001	Alferness			
	6,293,906 B1	09/25/2001	Vanden Hoek et al.			
	6,416,459 B1	07/09/2002	Haindl			
	6,425,856 B1	07/30/2002	Shapland et al.			
	6,482,146 B1	11/19/2002	Alferness et al.			
	6,564,094 B2	05/13/2003	Alferness et al.			
	6,572,533 B1	06/03/2003	Shapland et al.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	